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Further records of Saturniids from Laos (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae)

L. Racheli, R. Vinciguerra & T. Racheli

Abstract

Some distributional records for fourteen Saturniid species from Laos are given including some provincial new records.

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Saturniidae, distributional records, Laos.

Citas adicionales de Satúrnidos de Laos (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae)

Resumen

Se dan algunas citas sobre la distribución de catorce especies de Satúrnidos de Laos, incluyendo nuevas citas provinciales.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Saturniidae, distribución, Laos.

Introduction

In a recent paper (RACHELI & RACHELI, 2006), some distributional records of Saturniids from Laos were reported to update the checklist compiled by BROSCH *et al.* (1999). This checklist, and the web sites by U. & L. H. Paukstadt (www.wildsilkmoth-paukstadt.de, accessed 9 September 2006) and by Brosch & Naumann (www.saturniidae.com/laos/laos.htm, accessed 5 October 2007) are the only available sources of information concerning the Saturniid fauna of this country. Excluding the records based on old specimens, the majority of the records reported by BROSCH *et al.* (1999) are from sites located in central northern Laos. In the paper cited above (RACHELI & RACHELI, 2006), records for one Brahmaeid and three Saturniid species were given from a site located in the central eastern part of Laos.

In this paper, additional records based on material collected or received from the same locality in central eastern Laos are given. Furthermore, other distributional records are from material stored in the collection of one of us (R. Vinciguerra). Some records for a total of fourteen Saturniid species are given.

Given that this article was delayed for different reasons, other distributional records from Laos obtained recently will be included in a further paper which is in preparation.

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in the text: CLRR = collection Luigi Racheli, Rome, Italy; CRVP = collection Roberto Vinciguerra, Palermo, Italy.

Species account

Archaeoattacus edwardsii (White, 1859)

One male labelled, Laos, Provinz Louagphrabang [= Luang Prabang], Phou Khoun, 1500 m, X-2004, local collector leg., in CRVP was examined. This species was already reported for this province by BROSCH *et al.* (1999).

Attacus atlas (Linnaeus, 1758)

Two males labelled, Laos, Provinz Louagphrabang [= Luang Prabang], Phou Khoun, 1500 m, X-2004, local collector leg., in CRVP were examined. Although apparently a common species, these are the first records from this province.

Samia canningi (Hutton, 1860)

Three males and one female labelled, Laos Provinz Louagphrabang [= Luang Prabang], Phou Khoun, 1500 m, X-2004, local collector leg., in CRVP, were examined. This species was already reported for this province by BROSCH *et al.* (1999) and later confirmed by PEIGLER & NAUMANN (2003).

Furthermore, two males from Laos, Boli Kham Xai province, Road n. 8, Ban Pakha to Lak Sao, Ban Tabak, Nam Thun, river bridge, 350 m, local coll. leg., via A. Cotton, in CLRR, collected on 27 March and 8 April 2006 were examined.

Actias maenas Doubleday, 1847

A total of six males labelled, Laos, Boli Kham Xai province, Road n. 8 (Ban Pakha to Lak Sao), Ban Tabak, Nam Thun, River bridge, 350 m, 23-26 January 2006, A. Cotton & T. Racheli leg., and one female labelled, Laos, Boli Kham Xai province, Lak Sao, 500 m, 23 January 2006, A. Cotton & T. Racheli leg., in CLRR, were examined. At the locality where the males were collected, this species was absent in the previous field expedition (June 2005) during the wet season. By the contrast, the second expedition in January 2006 was conducted during the dry season and this species was found at this locality. At the same site (Nam Thun river bridge), this species was found to be scarce in March when two males and one female were collected on 4, 8 and 23 March, respectively. According to these collecting data, it seems that this species is present only during the dry season at least in central eastern Laos.

Three additional males labelled, Laos, Provinz Louagphrabang [= Luang Prabang], Phou Khoun, 1500 m, 1-X-2004, local collector leg., in CRVP were examined. However this taxon was already recorded for this province.

Actias selene (Hübner, 1806)

Three males labelled, Laos, Provinz Louagphrabang [= Luang Prabang], Phou Khoun, 1500 m, X-2004, local collector leg., in CRVP, were examined. In agreement to BROSCH *et al.* (1999), these specimens are listed here under the name *selene* given that it is impossible to assign these specimens to one of the several subspecific names available for Oriental populations.

Actias rhodopneuma Röber, 1925

Two males male labelled Laos, Provinz Louagphrabang [= Luang Prabang], 1800 m, VI.1997, local collector leg., in CRVP was examined. In any case, this taxon was already recorded from this province.

Actias sinensis Walker, 1855

Three males labelled Laos, Boli Kham Xai province, Road n. 8, Ban Pakha to Lak Sao, Ban Tabak, Nam Thun, river bridge, 350 m, local coll. leg., via A. Cotton, in CLRR, were examined. These

specimens were collected on 8 March, 23 March and 30 April 2006, respectively. This species was already reported by BROSCH *et al.* (1999) for the province of Luang Namtha.

Antheraea (Antheraeopsis) sp. near castanea Jordan, 1910 / *youngi* Watson, 1915

As RACHELI & RACHELI (2006) pointed out, the arrangement for the following specimens is only a preliminary attempt. For this reason, they are listed under the names *castanea* Jordan, 1910 and *youngi* Watson, 1915 given that it is impossible a more detailed arrangement to date. However specimens from Laos are distinct from those from Borneo usually assigned to *youngi*.

RACHELI & RACHELI (2006) recorded specimens of this species-group from central eastern Laos, and two additional males from the same site (Laos, Boli Kham Xai province, Road n. 8, Ban Pakha to Lak Sao, Ban Tabak, Nam Thun, river bridge, 350 m, 29 January 2006, A. Cotton & T. Racheли leg., in CLRR) are reported here. From the same site, the following additional specimens were examined (local coll. leg. via A. Cotton, in CLRR): one male collected on 10 February; one male on 1 March, one male 4 March; 2 males on 12 March; 1 male on 25 March; 1 male on 27 March, and lastly 1 female collected on 27 March.

Three additional males labelled, Laos, Provinz Louagphrabang [= Luang Prabang], Phou Khoun, 1500 m, XI-2004, local collector leg., in CRVP, were examined. Records from this province were already reported by BROSCH *et al.* (1999). These three males are similar to that reported by RACHELI & RACHELI (2006).

Antheraea (Antheraea) larisoides Bouvier, 1928

Two males labelled Laos, Provinz Louagphrabang [= Luang Prabang], Phou Khoun, 1500 m, X-2004, local collector leg., and an additional male, same data, XI-2004, all in CRVP, were examined. Furthermore, two males and one female from Laos, Boli Kham Xai province, Road n. 8, Ban Pakha to Lak Sao, Ban Tabak, Nam Thun, river bridge, 350 m, local coll. leg. via A. Cotton, in CLRR, were examined. The males were collected on 12 and 31 March 2006 while the female on 25 March 2006, respectively.

Antheraea (Antheraea) helferi Moore, 1859

Two females labelled Laos, Boli Kham Xai province, Road n. 8, Ban Pakha to Lak Sao, Ban Tabak, Nam Thun, river bridge, 350 m, local coll. leg. via A. Cotton, in CLRR and collected on 1 March and 10 March 2006, were examined.

Cricula jordani Bryk, 1944

Four males labelled, Laos, Provinz Louagphrabang [= Luang Prabang], Phou Khoun, 1500 m, XI-2004, local collector leg., in CRVP, were examined.

Fifteen males from Laos, Boli Kham Xai province, Road n. 8 (Ban Pakha to Lak Sao), Ban Tabak, Nam Thun, River bridge, 350 m, local coll. leg. via A. Cotton, in CLRR were examined. These males were collected on 29 January 2006, 18 February, 4 March, 5 April, 8 April, 22 April and 25 April. From the same site, there are also two females collected on 4 March and an additional female collected on 8 April.

Lemaireia luteopeplus aureopeplus Nässig & Holloway, 1988

One male labelled, Laos, Boli Kham Xai province, Road n. 8 (Ban Pakha to Lak Sao), Ban Tabak, Nam Thun, River bridge, 350 m, 22 April 2006, local people leg., via A. Cotton in CLRR, was examined. This species was already reported for Laos, province of Louagphrabang [= Luang Prabang], by BROSCH *et al.* (1999).

Loepa sikkima Atkinson, [1865], in Moore

Four males, Laos, Provinz Louagphrabang [= Luang Prabang], Phou Khoun, 1500 m, IV. 2004, local collector leg., in CRVP, were examined.

Saturnia (Rinaca) cachara (Moore, 1872)

The record for this species is based on one female from North Laos, Phongsali, VI-2003, local collector leg., in CRVP. It must be pointed out that it is unclear whether Phongsali refers to the province or to the small town which has the same name of the province.

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